Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating~~decreasing~~ depression in a subject comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a N-type calcium channel inhibitor ~~by inhibiting the activity of N-type calcium channel~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the N-type calcium channel is an alpha 1B [[of]] N-type calcium channel.

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for decreasing depression as set forth in~~of claim 1, wherein the ~~inhibiting the~~ N-type calcium channel inhibitor is ~~accomplished by administrating~~ a substance that acts specifically upon the N-type calcium channel to inhibit its activity.

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for decreasing depression as set forth in~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~inhibiting the~~ N-type calcium channel inhibitor is ~~accomplished by administrating~~ an antibody ~~combining that specifically binds with~~specific for the N-type calcium channel.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for decreasing depression as set forth in~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~inhibiting the~~ N-type calcium channel inhibitor is ~~accomplished by suppressing~~ a transcription inhibitor of a gene encoding the N-type calcium channel.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~for decreasing depression as set forth in~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~inhibiting the~~ N-type calcium channel inhibitor is ~~accomplished by suppressing~~ a translation inhibitor of a transcribed RNA of a N-type calcium channel gene.

7. (Original) An anti-depression agent containing a N-type calcium channel inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

8. (Previously Presented) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the anti-depression agent contains an N-type calcium channel alpha 1B inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

9. (Previously Presented) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the N-type calcium channel inhibitor is a compound acting specifically upon an N-type calcium channel to inhibit its activity, an antibody combining specifically with the N-type calcium channel, a substance inhibiting transcription of a gene encoding the N-type calcium channel, or a substance inhibiting translation of a transcribed N-type calcium channel gene.

10. (canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A screening method for an anti-depression agent, comprising:

obtaining a transformant by transfecting host cells with a vector containing an alpha 1B structural gene and a reporter gene;

culturing the transformant with a test sample for screening; and

measuring the expression of the reporter gene, wherein decreased expression of the reporter gene indicates that expression of the alpha 1B structural gene is decreased and that the test sample is an anti-depression agent.